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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of December, 1983)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicist's latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. during December was 496, compared with 495 in November. The December gain resulted from an increase of two vessels and a decrease of one land crew.

The December total (496) represents an increase of less than 1% over last month, a 4% increase over December, 1982, a 29% decrease from December, 1981, a 14% decrease from December, 1980, a 10% increase over December, 1979, a 39% increase over December, 1978, and a gain of 51% over the same month in 1977.

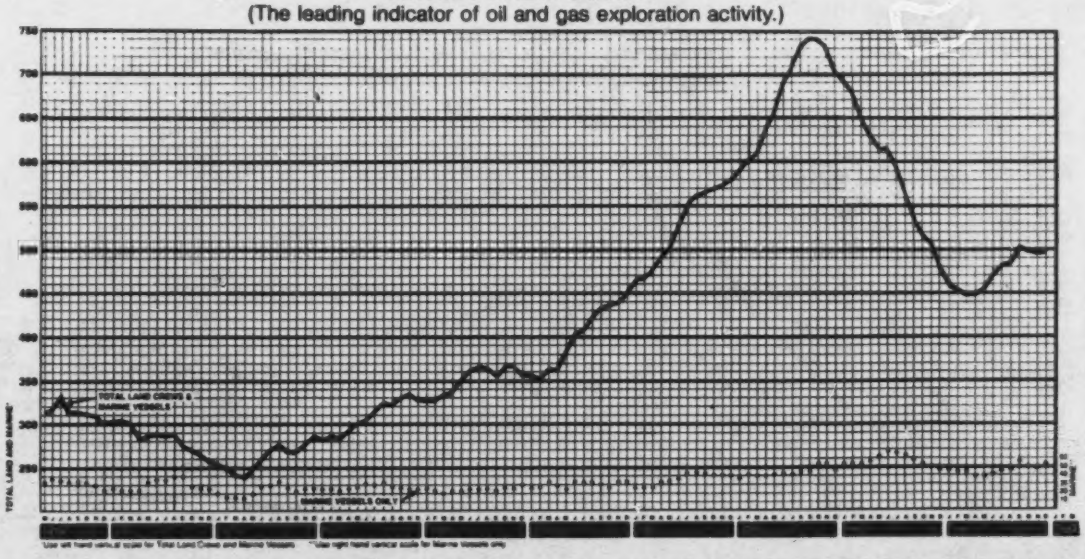
During December, six contractors were operating twelve of the 408 land crews and two of the forty-four vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	Dec.'82	Dec.'81	Dec.'80	Dec.'79	Dec.'78	Dec.'77
	496	495	477	703	580	450	358	329

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Dec. 1982	Dec. 1981	Dec. 1980	Dec. 1979	Dec. 1978	Dec. 1977
82 Contr's:	408	408	386	613	500	380	290	268	44	42	42	39	34	25	23	21
10 Oil Co's:	37	38	42	43	40	39	38	35	7	7	7	8	6	4	7	5
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Totals:	445	446	428	656	540	419	328	303	51	49	49	47	40	31	30	26

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



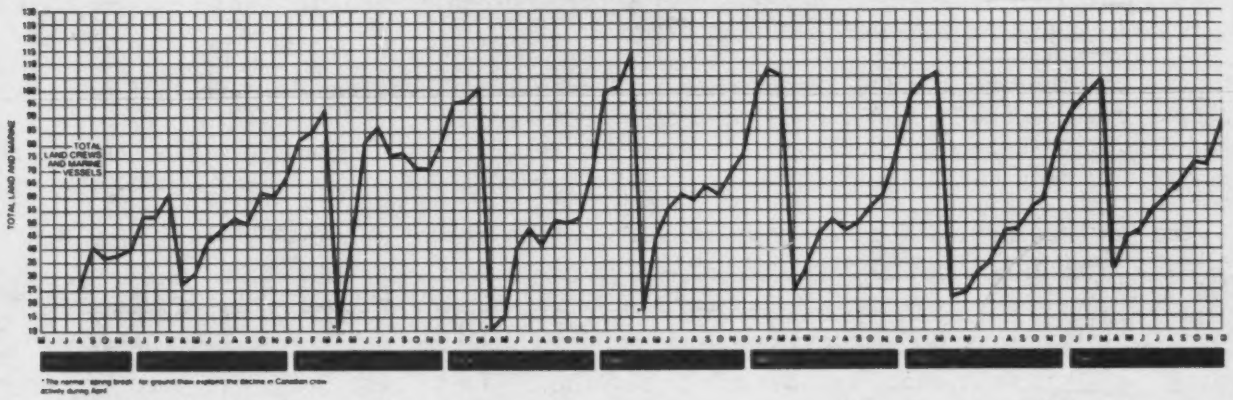
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

December, 1983 (November figures in parentheses)

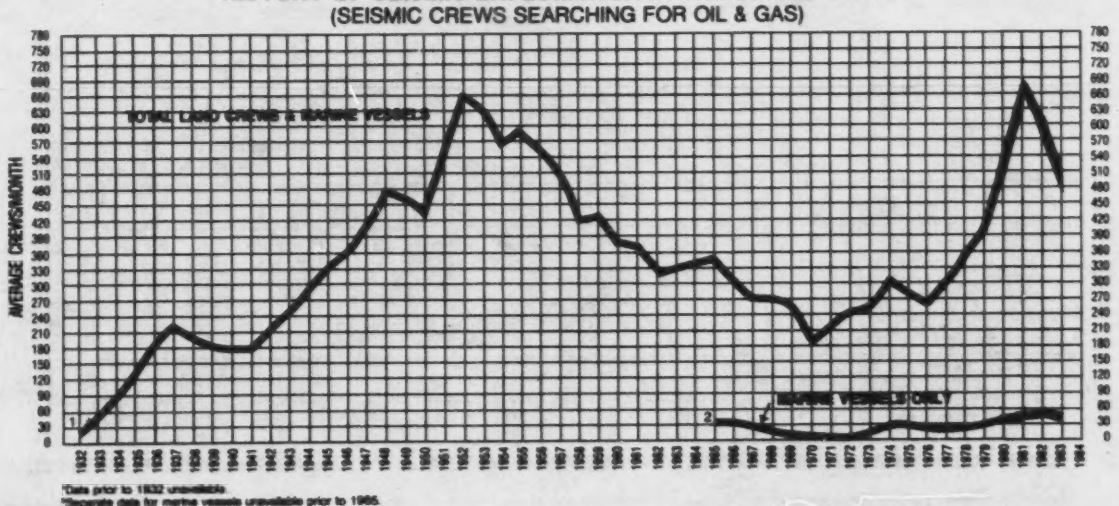
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
26 Contractors:	82 (67)	4 (3)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	85 (70)	4 (3)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(SEISMIC CREWS SEARCHING FOR OIL & GAS)



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